JERRUCK DIVISION.—Although the favourable climatic conditions mentioned before are answerable somewhat for the improvement, the Divisional Forest Officer reports that this is due to greater vigilance on the part of Ranger Dalpatrai Jethanand, in whose range (Shahbandar) fires did so much damage in the previous year, and to the fact that double grazing fees were levied as a punishment in the tracts traversed by fire. In order to prevent the spread of fires from Revenue waste lands into the Huderani and Penah forests, in which disastrous fires used to occur every year, their boundary-line was fire-traced and a constant look out was kept, with the gratifying result that they escaped burning for the first time in their history.

(3) Regulation of Grazing and Protection from Cattle.

Grazing regulations.

59. Grazing is regulated under the rules sanctioned by the Commissioner in Sind in his No. 2237, dated 30th June 1886. The forests are divided into three classes according to their grazing capacities, and in each of which a different scale of fees is levied. The dues under these rules do not press heavily on the people at large, and they are paid by them without demur.

Area opened and closed to grazing.

60. The following statement shows the areas closed and open to grazing at the close of the year 1894-95 :—

Division.	OPEN.		CLOSED.		TOTAL AREA.		REMARKS.
	Square miles.	Acres.	Square miles.	Acres.	Square miles.	Acres.	
Sukkur	380	469	23	489	404	318	1·160 square miles closed to browsers.
Naushahro	230	59	9	323	239	382	2·200 do. do.
Hyderabad	135	125	61	473	196	598	31·207 do. do.
Jerruck	148	434	7	82	155	516	
Total ...	894	447	102	87	996	534	

61. It has been the custom to continue year after year to fence and close against grazing all the compartments exploited for locomotive fuel without taking any steps to open such of them in which reproduction was assured.

62. The subordinates naturally supposed the period of closure was for 12 years, the rotation fixed for exploiting both pure babul as well as mixed forests. At this rate, the whole of the productive area would be closed in time. The absolute closing of the forests in Sind is not at all necessary; the conditions for reproduction are exceptionally favourable, and the result of such a procedure, even if it was required to be introduced, would entail great hardship on the surrounding agricultural population. Directly, therefore, it was brought to my notice, first in the Sukkur division and subsequently in the others, that a large number of compartments could be safely opened, the following simple rules were framed for the guidance of Range Forest Officers :—

(1) In the compartments in which Kundee (*Prosopis Spicigera*) predominates and which come annually under the influence of the floods, oxen and buffaloes should be admitted in the fourth year.

(2) Compartments in which babul is the principal species should be thrown open to all cattle, except browsers, in the sixth year.

(3) As for browsers, each case should be decided on its merits, and the compartments should be thrown open to them for grazing only when the growth is sufficiently high and beyond their reach.

63. The number of animals impounded during 1893-94 and 1894-95 for trespassing in open and closed forests is compared in the following statement :—

Comparative statement of cattle sent to the pound.

Division.	From open forests.		From closed forests.		Total.	
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.
Sukkur	3,263	1,476	2,852	3,426	6,115	4,902
Naushahro	2,010	1,537	4,111	3,764	6,121	5,301
Hyderabad	1,449	1,703	4,687	5,981	6,136	7,684
Jerruck	820	1,354	2,479	3,747	3,299	5,101
Total ...	7,542	6,070	14,129	16,918	21,671	22,988

64. The impoundings have been heavier in the Hyderabad and Jerruck Divisions from open as well as closed forests. The reason for the increase is due to systematic evasion of payments of the prescribed fees in forests open to grazing and to the inducements being very great to disrespect closures for the sake of the luxuriant fodder available in them. The grazing fees are equitable enough, but it will take some time yet before the people will learn to adopt the safer plan of securing grazing for their animals by taking out permits instead of paying pound fees for a brief spell of stolen grazing. In the Sukkur and Naushahro Divisions, cattle owners whose animals were found to be in excess of the number entered in their permits, or who were evading the payment of dues altogether, took advantage of the option given them under the rules in force to pay the penalty and register their animals, and consequently a less number was impounded from open forests.

65. The fact must not be lost sight of that a much larger number than is impounded in any one year enter the closures. Even when they are caught, it is impossible for one or two guards to drive all of them to the pound and a good many escape. It has also to be admitted that lax supervision on the part of forest guards reduces the number also

66. The following statement shows the number of cattle of different kinds impounded in the several divisions during the year from open as well as closed forests :—

Division.	Kind of area.	Cows and Bullocks.	Buffaloes.	Camels	Horses.	Asses.	Goats and Sheep.	Total from	
								Closed area.	Open area.
Sukkur	Open ...	608	295	331	11	4	227	...	1,476
	Closed ...	1,333	961	153	19	85	875	3,426	...
Naushahro	Open ...	330	116	232	11	8	840	..	1,537
	Closed ...	1,819	714	441	46	30	714	3,764	...
Hyderabad	Open ...	574	147	197	4	7	774	...	1,703
	Closed ...	2,931	1,023	602	15	331	1,079	5,981	...
Jerruck	Open ...	413	73	79	...	...	789	...	1,354
	Closed ...	1,714	477	327	36	159	1,034	3,747	...
Total ...	Open ...	1,925	631	839	26	19	2,630	...	6,070
	Closed ...	7,797	3,175	1,523	116	605	3,702	16,918	...

67. In order to keep out cattle from compartments under reproduction, undersized crown and side branches of the felled trees are utilized for fencing purposes. The erection of hedges marches simultaneously as a rule with the exploitation of the compartments, and is carried out with the help of the rural population in consideration of the concessions granted to them, such as free grants of produce, grant of low-lying lands for cultivation, &c.